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AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From 20th February, to 20th March, 1812.

THE weather for nearly two months past has been wet, and so unfavourable for the operations of the plough, that a great part of the tillage for Spring-corn is yet to perform; and as a good deal of snow has fallen since the 18th, with a cold, stormy Easterly wind, there is reason to apprehend the recurrence of such a backward Spring as was experienced last year; which, if it protracts the sowing in the same manner, will probably be productive of serious effects, in a season like the present, when provisions are likely to be scarce, and the distresses of the poor would be greatly increased by a late harvest.

Much has been said at various times on the propriety of ploughing earlier than has hitherto been the practice in this country, without producing the desired effect. And it is exceedingly to be regretted, that the occupiers of land cannot be prevailed on to adopt a practice, which has been found both necessary and profitable by the most skilful and experienced agriculturists.

The early part of the season was favourable for ploughing, the ground turned up in good order, and those who availed themselves of it, had all their tillage done before the weather changed, and are now ready to embrace the first favourable moment for sowing their Spring-corn, whilst their more tardy neighbours have both the ploughing and sowing to perform, perhaps in a very short space of time, and run the risk of being overtaken by a change of weather, before they are able to perform both.

The Farmers have in a pretty general way seen their error, in so obstinately rejecting the use of the Scotch plough for several years after its introduction into this country, and it will be well if their mistake in this respect, would induce them to be less tenacious of old customs and prejudices, and be more willing to adopt improvements that may be proposed to them, however different they may be to their former modes of farming. They have certainly made some advances towards an amendment; but a great deal is yet to be done, much prejudice and prepossession in favour of old customs require to be overcome, before they attain to that perfect system of husbandry, of which their more enlightened neighbours in Great Britain have long been in possession.

Grain of every kind has experienced a considerable rise in the course of the last two months. Oat-meal has in some places been sold as high as 30s. per cwt. Potatoes are rating from 6d. to 8d. per stone, of 14lbs., in a general way, and are expected to be higher. A letter from the County of Longford states the price at 9d. per stone; and mentions, that the populace, from apprehensions of a scarcity, had made some attempts to destroy the canal, to prevent provisions from being carried out of that country.

Good agriculturists are especially careful to have their lands free from weeds. In the Report of the Agriculture of Cornwall, one of the County Surveys just published, the reporter considers a farm weed-free, to be equivalent to a farm tithe-free; and he even gives it as his opinion, that the loss sustained by weeds, is in some cases equal to the rent.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THE act of last session to prevent distraint for rent, provided a tender of notes of the National Bank is made, is likely to be renewed this session, with additional clauses, which will have the indirect effect to make notes of the national banks a legal tender, for there is little difference between making them directly a legal tender, and accomplishing the same purpose by more circuitous means, by stopping all proceedings at law for the recovery of debts, by a tender of bank-paper. Lord Castlereagh, backed by petitions from Belfast and Colerain, announces his intention to move to extend the new act to Ireland. Legislative enactments, declaring that certain courses shall be pursued, without removing the causes of depreciation, will not long retard the downward tendency of a sinking paper-currency. Evasions will counteract acts of Parliament, and creditors, and those who have articles for sale, will, in self-defence, have recourse to measures to indemnify themselves from losing by the changes forced on the usual course of commercial dealings. Trade ought to be left free between buyers and sellers, debtors and creditors. Legislative interference may aggravate, but cannot remedy the evils flowing from an alteration of the circulating medium. Gold, in Bullion, has fallen in London, 2s. per oz., and the premium on Guineas in Belfast is from 3s. 9d. to 4s. per guinea. The prohibition of selling Gold formed also a part of the plan in the course of the French revolution, to support their sinking assignats. Brissot, in his address to his

constituents in the department of the Eure and Loire, in describing the futile policy practiced on this occasion in France, gives almost literally an exact representation of our present state, "Wherefore was that prohibition of selling gold, when the national interest obliges *the treasury* to make a custom of purchasing it, and when commerce itself wanted it for its foreign exchanges." The policy of supporting a paper circulating medium, through legislative compulsion, failed in France, and in America, and is not likely to succeed better, when the experiment is made with us.

A letter from Liverpool states, that "The quantity of Cotton purchased in December and January was much more extensive than the actual state of the consumption required, which, as might have been anticipated, was followed by a period of great depression. The business of the last month was, in consequence, unusually limited, the sales not exceeding 6,000 bags, and the prices in general experienced a decline of about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. The inquiry has again rather revived, but in other respects no improvement whatever has yet taken place. The late imports, it may be observed, have considerably exceeded the demand, and there is every probability, that the market will continue to be amply supplied, as a profit can be realized, upon the Cottons which are now arriving from the United States, and it may very naturally be supposed, that many of the holders will be desirous of securing this advantage while it remains in their power.

A practice has, of late, become very common on the part of the Linen-factors in London, to send out linens to the wholesale-draper on approbation, leaving to them the power of returning them. Such a custom being conceived extremely injurious to the trade, and a deviation from the usual wholesome course of an actual sale and delivery, a circular letter from many of the drapers in this country, to their factors in London, has been lately forwarded; declaring, that it is their settled opinion and decision, that no such practice is for the future to be resorted to, and instructing the factors not to send any goods consigned to them out in this way, nor without an actual sale. A farther regulation is still wanting to shorten the unreasonable long credits given by the factors in London on linens. The time is now extended to eight months, and in many cases ten months are allowed. This practice has led to consequences extremely hurtful to our linen-trade. The manufacturers of Manchester and other places in the cotton-trade, have availed themselves of the remoteness of the Irish draper, and while they get short payments for their articles, throw the burden of the long credit on that part of the British linen-draper's stock which is procured from Ireland.

The woollen-trade of England is suffering greatly from the commercial hostility in which the madness of governments involves us. The Resolutions from Leeds, placed at page 235 among the Documents, shows the state of distress to which their woollen-manufacture is reduced.

Owing to a revival of demand for the manufactures from cotton during last year, the weavers in this part of Ireland have latterly had pretty full employment, but there is cause to fear that the quantities manufactured, may be more than the demand for the home market may continue to take off; and from foreign markets, the policy of the state has mostly caused an exclusion, by the pertinacity of adhering to the system of the commercial war.

Exchange on London has through this month generally averaged at $2\frac{1}{3}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per ct.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From February 20, to March 20.

- Feb. 22. Cloth of Gold Crocus (*Crocus sulphureus*,) flowering.
- 24. Yellow-hammer (*Emberiza Citrinella*,) singing.
- 27. Common Bunting (*Emberiza Miliaria*) singing.
- March 1. Mezereon (*Daphne Mezereon*,) flowering.
- 4. Blue Navel Wort (*Cynoglossum Omphalodes*,) flowering.
- 6. Sweet Violet (*Viola odorata*) flowering.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From February 20, to March 20.

- Feb. 21,.....Showery.
- 22,.....Dark dry day.
- 23,.....Cloudy, some showers.
- 24,.....Showery.
- 25,.....Wet and stormy.